

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS



SATURDAY
MARCH 11, 1933



Helen Elizabeth Brown

Founder of the Business and Professional Women's Council of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party, who was one of the principal speakers at the mass meeting held on March 7 in Baltimore, Maryland, to protest against the threat of sex discrimination in the public service. Miss Brown, who is a well-known Baltimore attorney, is Legislative Chairman of the Council. At the mass meeting she made a brilliant speech in defense of married women's right to paid employment, which will appear in full in next week's issue of Equal Rights.

Equal Rights



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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]

[House Joint Resolution Number 55]

Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.

Introduced in the House January 11, 1932,
by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW,
Indiana.

The Common Cause

IN THESE desperate times, when one can feel the ship of state almost literally rocking under one's feet, the question inevitably arises, How well have men alone managed the affairs of the nation?

If women, to the exclusion of men, had been entrenched in the financial and political life of the United States ever since its foundation, and if they, acting alone, had brought the precious vessel of our national life so close upon the rocks, we wonder in what terms our brothers would describe women's power of leadership.

As Feminists it would be unbecoming for us to criticize men in their present extremity. Men have doubtless done as well as they could do, under the circumstances. Acting alone, during the past century and a half, they have at least solved one of humanity's most gigantic problems, the problem of production. If women, acting alone, had done as well, their children could quite properly rise up and call them blessed. So to orient the forces of production as to make possible the elimination of poverty is a magnificent achievement on the part of men, but it is not enough to insure an enduring civilization.

Equable distribution must follow closely upon the heels of potential production, otherwise, all history tells us revolution, war, chaos will result. Vast riches side by side with bitter poverty has always heretofore ushered in the end.

The forces that have gone into the solution of the problem of production, based every one of them, in the final analysis, upon white hot competition, are antithetical to the solution of the sister problem of distribution.

One cannot work to take all that one can get for oneself, honestly or dishonestly, and then overnight adopt a sincere policy of sharing justly with others. Human minds do not operate in that fashion.

A new force is needed in the financial and political life of the nation if orderly progress is to take the place of revolution in human affairs.

IT is at this point that Feminism enters. Women constitute the altruistic sex, the disciplined sex, accustomed throughout the ages to settling their disputes by argument, not by force of arms. Accustomed also to co-operation, and the subordination of their own ego impulses to the general welfare. Women, as a sex, constitute the great force now needed in public life to save humanity from self-murder.

But force to be utilized must be directly related to the machinery it is to set in motion. As the lightning in the skies cannot run our vacuum cleaners or our trolley cars because it is not directly related to these humble instruments, so the potential altruism of womankind cannot function until it is directly related to the social economic machine. Scattered, unorganized, without specific purpose, this altruism may be a light in the high heavens, but it is useless for setting into motion the new and essential parts of the complicated machinery of our national life.

As never before the need presses. Women must organize, claim their equal share of the power and responsibility of government, take their places side by side with men. Under the banner of the National Woman's Party, women must swiftly and consciously organize. With a definite program of activity designed to further the manifold interests of Feminism in national and international affairs, the Woman's Party offers every woman in the world an opportunity to work with others of her sex for the common cause.

May We Send You the Plan?

MANY people, particularly labor men, believe that it is a very difficult thing to organize women. Out of a long experience we know, to the contrary, that it is the easiest thing in the world. Women enjoy working with one another for a common purpose, and they work together well, as is indicated by the many millions of women who are already united in multi-farious clubs.

The Organization Committee of the National Woman's Party has recently prepared a detailed plan of organization, including by-laws, programs of activities for different types of groups, selected literature and a list of available speakers. This was done for the purpose of facilitating organization work in small towns and rural communities. Copies of the plan may be had on application to the Organization Committee, 19 West Chase Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

With the economic security of women threatened from one end of the country to the other, and with civilization itself almost on the rocks, it is high time for women to unite for their own and their country's salvation.

Nobody Wanted to Go Home

THAT Maryland women do not intend to take any attacks upon their economic status lying down, became an established fact last Tuesday evening when the Business and Professional Women's Council of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party held one of the most enthusiastic mass meetings that Baltimore City has ever seen. The meeting was called by Ida I. Kloze, president of the Council, for eight o'clock, at the Woman's City Club of Baltimore, but by half past seven the large ball room was already thronged with men and women eagerly discussing ways and means of preventing sex discrimination in the city service. A heavy rain was falling outside but the crowd in ever increasing numbers, still continued to come. Before eight o'clock every seat was taken; folding chairs were brought in, the aisles were filled to overflowing and still there was not room.

Florence Elizabeth Kennard, corresponding secretary of the Maryland Branch, rose to the emergency. Through the downpour she dashed to the Mount Vernon M. E. Church, just across the way, of which congregation she is a member, and prevailed upon Tom, the janitor, to open the doors and let the people in. Lights on! A short march through the rain and one of the most significant events in Baltimore's history was under way.

The occasion for the mass meeting was the current agitation for the removal of married women from the city service in Baltimore.

On December 20, 1932, Mr. Konig, a member of the City Council from the First District, introduced a resolution in the Council "requesting the Mayor and the Board of Estimates to make a survey rela-

tive to the employment of married women in the several municipal departments and in the schools, whose husbands are able to support them." This resolution was read and adopted but the resultant public outcry against the proposal was so prompt and so effective that the provisions of the resolution were not put into effect.

On January 3 the Maryland General Assembly convened in Annapolis, and then again rumors began to spread that certain small-minded delegates, mainly representing organized labor, intended to launch an attack upon married women.

On February 7 Elmer F. Bernhardt, director of the Central Pay Roll Bureau, sent the department heads at the City Hall a request for a list of all married women on the city pay roll whose husbands are employed by the city or by private concerns. He acted under instructions from Mayor Jackson, who was asked for the information by Leon Abramson, a member of the House of Delegates from the Fourth District, Baltimore City.

Mr. Bernhardt's questionnaire included such inquisitorial questions as the salary and age of the employee, length of employment, whether divorced, if husband is living, and employed, where employed, husband's salary, number of dependents, etc.

The married women at once turned to the National Woman's Party for advice and were referred to Helen Elizabeth Brown, attorney and chairman of legislation for the Business and Professional Women's Council.

Miss Brown immediately called the Mayor on the telephone and was told by him that the women need not fill in the questionnaire, and that he had no intention of removing the married women. The

heads of departments, however, required the women to fill in the answers. The survey showed that 1,205 married women held city positions, the majority as teachers in the public schools.

The teachers knowing that they were amply protected by the Teachers' Equal Rights law passed by the General Assembly at the instigation of the Woman's Party in 1924, resolved at once to defend their rights. Women, both married and unmarried in the city service and in the influential women's clubs in Baltimore joined them and sent emissaries to Mayor Jackson and Delegate Abramson. The Mayor still said that he had no intention of persecuting the married women but Mr. Abramson insisted that he would work for the temporary suspension of the Merit System to permit Mayor Jackson to remove the married employees with husbands able to support them.

As a result of this obstinate and anti-social stand on the part of Mr. Abramson the mass meeting was called.

At a quarter past eight Miss Kloze called the meeting to order and introduced Edith Houghton Hooker as the presiding officer. The speakers were Florence M. Layman, president of the Woman's Club of Secondary Schools; Helen Elizabeth Brown; Dr. Elizabeth S. May, of Goucher College; Lula E. Powell, president of the Federation of Republican Women; Marie W. Presstman, representing the Democratic Women; Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley and Abbie Owen, of Washington, D. C. Emilie A. Doetsch presented appropriate resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned. It was late, but the occasion was so interesting that nobody wanted to go home.

Women Are People

By Ida I. Kloze

Radio Address Delivered Over Station WCAO, Baltimore, Maryland, on March 7, on the Program of the Baltimore City District, Maryland State Federation of Women's Clubs. Miss Kloze, who is a Leader in the Democratic Party and a Lawyer by Profession, is President of the Business and Professional Women's Council of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party.

ness of her friends, her prestige or her personal charm, to secure a well-paying position. Once it was that if a woman gently bred and nurtured was suddenly found to be penniless in her middle years, friends would secure for her some pleasantly lucrative, easy berth. Now that is impossible. Competition is too vigorous. Even the woods are full of men and

women with trained brains. They are no longer a novelty. Money is paid for value given and full value is demanded.

No one will deny that an emergency has arisen and that all business and industry must be conducted as economically as possible. It is necessary to keep a working staff at a minimum and at the same time there is the problem of permitting people to earn a livelihood and to keep as many people as possible out of the ranks of the jobless. When the situation arises where someone must lose employment and the question is who shall go, at once there is the cry "Fire married women." The problem confronting us is, shall the person who is most in need of a job, regardless of his or her efficiency, be retained, or shall consideration be given to an employee who has been most diligent and efficient? If business is to be conducted

AS long as women did not present themselves as candidates for positions held by men, as long as they did not open offices to practice the professions or enter into open competition in the labor market with their brothers, the world was content to let their efficiency remain unmeasured, except in a superficial fashion as it related to the number of their babies and the happiness of their husbands; but when women began to take an active part in the productivities of the world outside of the home, then the world began, and rightly, to demand that this new person, who asked to be one of its recognized workers, should show the same relative usefulness and efficiency that had already been demonstrated by those whose places she was attempting to fill.

It is no longer a simple thing for an untrained woman by virtue of the kind-

along charitable lines and the person most in need of a job shall receive the greatest consideration, it will become necessary for employers to conduct social surveys to determine whether Jones spends more money on movies than Smith, and the respective number of children with which each is blessed, and who has to purchase a greater number of pairs of shoes.

The *Evening Sun* very aptly stated the case when under a recent editorial caption "What of it?" it stated, "The primary concern of an employer is whether or not those he employs are capable of doing the work assigned them. There is nothing to indicate that the marriage ceremony, in itself, undermines the intelligence or lessens efficiency. Marriage has no more relation to the industry of its celebrants than does the color of their eyes or the incorrigibility of their cowlicks. To penalize women because they conform to the conventions of society in their love life is a strange reward for virtue. So long as the service they render is commensurate with the pay they draw there seems to be no good excuse for trying to govern their private lives."

In an age when efficiency is a by-word, when the pressure of competition is inordinately keen even in the learned professions, it must be expected that the apparent results of so expensive an investment as an education should not be wasted. Colleges for women are no longer an oddity and there are many happy grandmothers going back each year to celebrate their fortieth and fiftieth reunions. College women are a recognized institution; it is but fair that they should have the same unbiased and impartial opportunities that are bestowed upon college men. They should be given an opportunity to function as rational normal human beings, not constantly reminded that they are women. Women decline to be allocated as a group, but demand that all prejudice against their sex be removed and they be given an opportunity to rise or fall on their personal merits. No one has the temerity to suggest that married men be deprived of their jobs because their wives are employed. "What rights have married men that needs must be respected more than married women's? Is it any more reprehensible for a woman to have a husband than it is for a husband to have a wife?" a local newspaper wisely questions.

The constitution of the United States that provides equal franchise, also provides that any law-abiding citizens may seek prosperity and happiness according to the dictates of their conscience, providing they do not infringe upon the personal rights of their neighbor. As Abraham Lincoln said in the last message he ever sent to the people: "The fundamental principle of all good government is justice and equality."

Many persons, however, make the claim that women have no right to encroach on man's occupation; that the business of this world is divided into two parts: First, that man shall take care of the business; second, that woman shall take care of the home. Man should produce the material things of life, and woman should continue the generations through motherhood.

Let's investigate the question of occupation and see what evidence can be found to support the claim that business belongs to man.

While our great-grandmother was doing the manufacturing and tilling the soil, her boy friend was out hunting or fishing. And we do not dispute the fact that every night he may have brought home a saddle of venison or the best cut of bear-steak, or perhaps a nice mess of fish "for her to clean."

While Mother Eve was establishing the home and industrial arts, giving impetus to civilization, Adam was doing the "Huckleberry Finn," and as soon as business got on a paying basis and became well established, he took it out of her hands, and now informs her that she has no right to take part in it—that her place is in the home; so we find men engaged in all occupations formerly carried on by women.

We find them cooking in all hotels and restaurants; the cakes and pies and good old soda biscuits formerly made by mother are now made in bakery shops by men. We find them in the dressmaking shops as dressmakers and designers of women's clothes; we find them in the beauty and hairdressing shops; and what smart boulevard does not have millinery shops conducted by men?

It is a mistaken idea, however, that some people have, that woman trying to set up her economic independence will ever be completely independent of man. I believe that the question of woman's independence has been thoroughly misunderstood. What woman really wants is to be delivered from the shackles into which custom and tradition have put her, and be able to give expression to her desires, talents and ambitions. She wants to have a manner of self-expression which does not necessarily mean that she must become man's imitator or his competitor.

Women have changed fundamentally. They have reached a new stage in the conception of woman's sphere in this world. Women are people, and they are now demanding that they be given equal opportunity with men, to prove their individual worth.

Why do people object to women in business? What causes this wave of objection when a woman decides to do something other than housework? Is it the cry of those who have the motive of self, who set up the claim that woman is encroaching

on man's domain, and that she will bring lower wages and chaos into the business world? Their cry is that woman's place is in the home—that's where she belongs. I should like to ask the so-called reformers the question: "Are women people?" Is it not true that life is a personal proposition and that each one of us must work out his own salvation? In this day, women may so arrange their homes that they may utilize their spare time, thereby training their minds without neglecting their families. If a woman chooses the home for her vocation, that is her privilege, but she also has the right to choose business as her life work, and decide for herself how she shall employ her time.

There are thousands of women in the business world today not of their own choice. The question of supporting the family has forced many women to leave their homes and firesides and seek employment, that their children or parents may have the things they are entitled to, and if they are willing to go out and help carry the burden, they should receive a word of praise and not be condemned. The man who thinks that a woman's place is in the home, should be very substantially entrenched in business himself before he asks a girl to marry him. If he believes the home is where his wife should be, then he should be in a position to give her one and let her raise the family in its protection and security. When a woman marries she is entitled to a home. If the man expects her to bear his children, she surely has the right to expect a place of her own in which to raise them. If a man is not in a position to make her fondest dreams come true, and a woman is willing to marry him and go to work to help earn a competency, then she deserves every consideration. If a husband does not want his wife to help him, then he should not try to stop her from helping herself.

The masculine viewpoint must change in order to keep step with the feminine one. Most men do not like to have their wives contribute to the support of the house; they prefer to have them sit at home and look pretty while the burden of support is borne on manly shoulders—it give such a sense of masculine superiority to have wives depend upon their husbands for the necessities of life, and to come to them for every penny they spend. But the tragedy of this arrangement is and always has been, if anything happens to the husband, the wife is left dependent and often penniless.

Men and women must work together, not only in the home, but in business, if they wish to solve many of the perplexing problems that face us today.

The Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote, will never be repealed. Women are in business to stay. They have become such an important part

of our economic arrangement that business could not go on without them. They have become citizens and have a voice in the government; they talk man's language, particularly when they become exasperated. They work with men and exchange ideas as well as cigarettes. Women run for office and get elected. They speak on public platforms and people pay to hear what they have to say. Woman has assumed the attitude that if she is made of the rib of man, his interests and hers are identical and that the Creator, in His infinite wisdom, took the part closest to man's heart from which to create woman.

In every generation, however, woman has been identified as one of man's dependents, as instinctively seeking man's protection, and he has always been painted as the shield that stood between woman and danger. Adam in the Garden of Eden was not the protector—but the accuser. There was nothing in the first act of man to lead us to believe that his function was to provide and protect. When he ate of the forbidden fruit, and was called to account, there was nothing in his explanation that proved that he

was superior to Eve in intelligence. If man was created superior to woman intellectually, he would at least have exhibited this power when he found himself in trouble for the first time.

Nothing in the world today is so changeable as financial standing. A man may be a millionaire today and not be able to start a savings account tomorrow. A hopeful and very masculine husband may say confidently and honestly that his wife need never make her own living, but that will not deter the economic forces if he chances to stand in their way. It will not prevent their wheels from leaving him crushed in the road, his family penniless. No man today who studies conditions with any intelligence can honestly say that he knows his wife need never make her own way. There is no financial security today for anyone except the trained ability to make a living.

Automatic machinery and electricity have invaded the home, the last vestige of drudgery has been removed and women, instead of being the chief producers, have become economically unproductive.

The contrast between the toiling primi-

tive woman and the comparatively idle lady of our present civilization has brought about a new question for our women to solve.

Shall woman exist because of her sex value alone? Each woman must decide for herself whether her only contribution shall be reproduction; whether she shall spend her time in idleness or whether she will now fit herself for this new economic era, and take her place in the world of events.

Women have changed fundamentally. They have reached a new stage in the conception of women's sphere in this world. Women are people, and they are now demanding that they be given equal opportunity with men. They demand the right that naturally belongs to intelligent human beings. If wives, they wish to be the equals of their husbands; if mothers, they wish to rear their children in the atmosphere of love, liberty and philosophy; if in business, they believe that woman can discharge all of her duties and prove her individual worth, and that she shall not be discriminated against because she is a woman.

Women Join the Parade

By Mildred Kahler Geare,
Editor Club Woman's Page, Baltimore
Sunday American

FEMINISM took a long step forward on March 4 when for the first time in history women of all ages, sizes and of many races marched in the inaugural parade in Washington, D. C.

Tiny tots of six years of age walked side by side with great-grandmothers. Nothing seemed to dampen the spirits of the marchers, although most of them had stood for three to four hours in line waiting to march.

While many of the women would doubtless have been surprised to learn that they were taking part in an Equal Rights demonstration, the fact remains that by joining the big parade and marching shoulder to shoulder with men they set a new precedent in the political affairs of the nation. People may still believe that the sphere of woman is the home, but hereafter they will have to grant that the orbit of the home is confluent at times with the orbit of the sphere of politics. All inaugural processions arrive, after some four years, at the ballot box, and men will not easily forget that women with invisible ballots in their possession stepped out with determination on March 4 to welcome the President, whom, Mr. Farley says, they had elected.

Women from all parts of the country were represented in their State delegations. The Thomas J. Minnick, Jr. Democratic Marching Club of Philadelphia had over fifty women dressed as Quaker maids with Mrs. Harry Frederick of Philadelphia heading the procession. A large group of Czecho-Slovakian girls in their

native costumes preceded the Philadelphia group.

The women of Hyde Park, New York, wore no decorations but were all dressed in black. They followed the Tammany tribe, headed by former Governor Al Smith. A bevy of beautiful girls sat on top of a very colorful wagon of the Hearst Metrotone News Service.

Women were in the Mummers Band of Philadelphia. Women played various instruments in a great many bands. A large group of women wore nifty uniforms of navy blue with overseas caps and carried a banner, "Helen Fairchild Nurses' Post of Philadelphia."

Another group wearing a similar uniform had a banner "Post Seventy-seven of Orange, New Jersey, National Organization of World War nurses." From North Dakota came a group of women bearing flags.

More than five hundred Baltimore women, headed by Mrs. Frank Phillips, president of the Democratic Women's Club of Baltimore; Mrs. George Phifer, president of the Ninth Ward Democratic Women's Club, and Sophie E. Bender, president of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Young Men's Bohemian Club of the Seventh Ward, marched from the beginning to the end of the parade.

So afraid of not being on time were these women that they arrived at the formation place at D Street, southeast,

between Fifth and Sixth Street, at noon. They had to wait almost four hours before the parade started, but the time was passed in a gay manner as many danced to tunes played by the Seventh Ward Band, the St. Mary's Band, and the St. James Corps.

A large delegation of Polish men and women danced native dances. Hot dogs, sandwiches and coffee were served.

The group headed by Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Phifer wore overseas caps bearing the words "Baltimore Women" on them with huge yellow and black sashes over their coats and they carried canes with the Maryland colors attached.

Mrs. Phillips assisted by Mrs. August Klecka, Ida I. Koze, Mrs. Stephen Van Lill, Tillye Sachs and Regina Kauffman carried a huge banner inscribed "Democratic Women's Club of Baltimore."

Annie Elliott of the Twenty-fourth Ward Democratic Women's Organization Club of Baltimore, carried a large Maryland flag. Agnes Griffen of the Women's Democratic Club of the Twenty-fourth Ward also carried a large Maryland flag. A number of women wore black-eyed Susans and carried Maryland flags.

After the parade was over the women declared that it would be at least another four years before they would march again, as their feet hurt. But they said that they had had a glorious time.

It is pleasant for Feminists to realize that women have not only joined the political parade, but that they have demonstrated their ability easily to keep up with the men.

Press Comment

Delicate Distinction

*Evening Sun,
Baltimore, Md.,
March 2, 1933.*

MISS FRANCES PERKINS, who is to be Secretary of Labor in President Roosevelt's Cabinet, is a highly intelligent person. There can be no doubt of that. She has done and will continue to do all that she can for labor. There can be no doubt of that either. Further, it has never even occurred to anyone to question her integrity.

So Mr. William Green and other leaders of organized labor have announced that they "can never be reconciled" to her appointment, and they threaten a policy of "non-co-operation" with her department.

In the recent past we have had a series of Secretaries of Labor whose intelligence, to put it mildly, was a debatable question, and whose activities in behalf of labor were dubious at best and often downright silly. As for their integrity, it has been frequently questioned, whether with or without justification we do not know.

The leaders of organized labor have always "co-operated" to the fullest extent with these men. Far from denouncing them, the leaders of organized labor were largely responsible for their appointment. The Secretary has usually been appointed from among their own ranks.

Which brings up a rather nice point: Do labor leaders want a Secretary of Labor who will do everything possible to help labor, or do they want one who will do everything possible to help labor leaders?

Business Women's Week

*Baltimore News,
Baltimore, Md.,
March 6, 1933.*

NATIONAL BUSINESS Women's Week, the observance of which begins today in Baltimore and other cities of the country, is one of the family of special "weeks" which is peculiarly interesting because it denotes a momentous economic and social change of modern times.

There have been individual business women, probably, in all ages of the world. Even before the advent of the feminist movement such women as Hetty Green have had a hand in moulding the commercial and financial activities of the nation.

But these women were invaders of what was recognized as a field belong to the other sex, and they were regarded as abnormalities.

Today women are recognized as native to the mart, the forum and the exchange. They cater not alone to their own sex as the modiste did in past decades. They compete with men on equal terms in all

industrial pursuits which they care to enter, and one of their number is now sitting in the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

Business Women's Week signalizes one of the most extraordinary innovations of modern times—one which seems destined to divert the tide of organized human society into new channels. It therefore commands and deserves the attention of the world at large.

What of It?

*Evening Sun,
Baltimore, Md.,
February 28, 1933.*

WHY Mr. Leon Abramson, member of the House of Delegates from the Fourth District, is curious about the number of married women on the city payroll is not revealed. It may be that his request for information on that score bodes the married ladies no good. It may be he is merely satisfying a thirst for knowledge.

At any rate, he has it now, on the authority of Mr. Elmer F. Bernhardt, director of the General Pay Roll Bureau, that there are 1,205 married women drawing pay from the city. Of this number 671 are school teachers. The husbands of 107 of these married women employees are also in the employ of the city. Other husbands to the number of 622 are privately employed or are engaged in the professions.

But what of it? The primary concern of an employer is whether or not those he employs are capable of doing the work assigned them. There is nothing to indicate that the marriage ceremony, in itself, undermines the intelligence or lessens efficiency. Marriage has no more relation to the industry of its celebrants than does the color of their eyes or the incorrigibility of their cowlicks. To penalize women because they conform to the conventions of society in their love life is a strange reward for virtue. So long as the service they render is commensurate with the pay they draw, there seems to be no good excuse for trying to govern their private lives.

Constructive Suggestion

*Evening Sun,
Baltimore, Md.,
March 1, 1933.*

IT is gratifying to learn that women of several organizations are rallying to protect married members of their sex in the employ of the city against the persecution of Delegate Abramson of the Fourth District. It is announced that the Business and Professional Women's Council is organizing a protest against the efforts of that distinguished legislator to have married women with husbands to support them removed from the public pay roll.

If constructive suggestions are in order we would like to remind the Business and Professional Women's Council that in the opinion of strategists the best defense is a counter-offensive. It is always disconcerting to carry the battle to the enemy, so to speak.

Let the women workers put their enemies on the defensive. Give them something to worry about. To that worthy end we propose that the champions of employed married women descend upon Annapolis and demand that married men be removed from the public pay roll. What rights have married men that needs must be respected more than married women? Is it any more reprehensible for a woman to have a husband than it is for a husband to have a wife?

We recommend the suggestion not only because it is a counter-offensive, but one that involves a moral issue as well, and a moral issue always drives legislators to cover.

Married Women Who Work

*Colorado Springs Gazette,
Colorado Springs,
Colorado,
February 28, 1933.*

SYMPATHY will be accorded women in their protest against a bill now before the General Assembly providing that no compensable public position, State, county, city or school district, shall be held by a married woman unless she be the head of a family as same is defined for tax exemption purposes. The bill is legislative recognition of the complaint, heard in good times, as well as bad, against employment of married women, presumably, to the injury of employable but jobless men. It finds unusual support now because unemployment is widespread and any measure that seems to promise relief even in slightest degree is eagerly seized.

However, there is another and more important side to the question. For if there are seeming inequalities in some instances of present public employment, there are greater dangers in a system which makes economic need the standard of employment. To declare that a woman may not hold public position because she has a husband financially able to support her after a fashion is to deprive the public service of some of its most capable and most efficient workers. Moreover, the measure is in itself discriminatory inasmuch as it runs against married women only and not others who may be financially independent.

Isolated instances may be cited of public employment of women under circumstances to which exception properly may be taken. These cases, however, are mat-

ters that ought to be handled locally. There is no occasion for legislative action. to the contrary, such a course is dangerous.

Economic Freedom In Danger

Legislative Counsellor, Seattle, Wash., February, 1933.

TO be a citizen of the United States means freedom in the choice of occupation and opportunity for due preparation therefore, else the ballot is a snare and freedom a myth. The accident of race, rank or sex should never interfere with freedom of choosing one's occupation, except for crime, of which such individual has been duly convicted.

Thus speaks, in no uncertain tones, the Constitution of our country.

Since the passage of the nineteenth amendment, sex disqualification for taking active part in government has become a thing of the past. Further, the nationality laws, better known as the Cable Act, and its amendments, has caused the power which the marriage ceremony had in conferring or taking away a woman's citizenship to cease. Therefore, to propose restricting a married woman's economic liberty by law is clearly against the provisions of the United States Constitution and its statutes.

The introduction of H. B. 218 and S. B. 182 in our State Legislature is a futile retrogressive step in the path of race

progress. Classing certain married women (practically all who are not destitute) with aliens will utterly destroy the slowly built-up merit system for selection of employees in public service.

It is the entering wedge of a sinister movement to relegate woman to her former state of dependence. Do not be deceived; freedom is not retained without constant vigilance. No people has ever yet risen higher than the status granted to its women.

For the sake of genuine progress for the race, we call upon all women to neither slumber nor sleep until such pieces of legislation as mentioned above are relegated to the innocuous desuetude where they fitly belong.

Feminist Notes

Sympathetic Husbands

MAX OCHINSKY is suing the City of Seattle, Washington, for the loss of his wife's services, because she was laid up for 16 days in consequence of an injury received aboard a James St. cable car. The amount is \$1,872, itemized as follows: Doctor bills, \$40; housekeeper, \$32; husband's loss of wife's services, \$300; for pain, suffering and general damages, \$1,500.

Under the community property law in Washington which makes the husband the sole manager of the community, a wife's services are of no value to herself but apparently they are of great value to her husband. Likewise with regard to pain and suffering. Since Mrs. Ochinsky was

the one hurt, it seems as if she might deserve at least a little of the \$1,500. Husbands must be frightfully sympathetic in the State of Washington if the law gives a true picture of the relative pain and suffering endured by the two spouses when the wife alone is injured!

Spain Elects Women Mayors

SPANISH elections have so far resulted in the triumph of at least six women mayors, with reports still arriving as we go to press. In San Sebastian, five out of twenty-two municipalities heard from to date, have elected women mayors. A news story from Badajoz announces that the town of Alange has elected Señora Julia

Mayoral as mayor. The Governor of the province, Señor Cenamor, installing her in her new office, took advantage of the occasion to make a stirring feminist speech.

Married Women's Rights in Colombia

THE right to manage and dispose of their own property has been granted married women in Colombia. Husbands no longer will be wives' legal representatives nor may spouses make irrevocable gifts to and contracts concerning realty with each other. A wife may enter appearance in lawsuits and is liable only for her own debts and those arising out of domestic obligations and the raising and education of the children.

News from the Field

Interesting Speaker March 14

PAUL T. BEISSER, executive secretary of the Henry Watson Children's Aid will deliver an address before the Baltimore City Branch, National Woman's Party, on March 14, at 2.30 P. M., at headquarters, 19 W. Chase St., Baltimore.

To Elect Officers

THE Business and Professional Women's Council, Maryland Branch, National Woman's Party, of which Ida I. Kloze, attorney, is president, will hold its annual meeting for the election of officers on March 12, at 3 P. M., at 19 W. Chase Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mrs. Hilles Extends Congratulations

THE National Woman's Party on February 28, extended its congratulations to Frances Perkins on her appointment as Secretary of Labor in the Roosevelt Cabinet.

Following the November election, the Woman's Party urged Governor Roosevelt to include women in his appointments to the Cabinet, Diplomatic Service and

other high posts. He was congratulated recently on having named a woman to the Cabinet, in a letter sent to him by Florence Bayard Hilles, chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party.

Colorado Women Launch Campaign

AROUSED by legislation which would deprive married women of State jobs except in cases where they are the sole bread-winners of the family, the Colorado Branch of the National Woman's Party is launching a fight for the Equal Rights of married women.

Lillian H. Kerr of Colorado Springs, chairman of the Colorado branch, issued a statement on February 26 condemning house bill No. 215 which is now before the State legislature. The State executive committee of the National Woman's Party is to meet shortly. The bill provides that "No married woman, with or without the consent of her husband, shall have the right, power or authority to perform any work, labor or services for compensation or salary for the State of Colorado, or any of its offices, departments, bureaus, boards, commis-

sions, institutions or other agencies or for any county, city and county, city, incorporated town or school district, unless such married woman is the head of the family, as is now provided by law for tax exemption purposes; or by reason of the disability of her husband she provides the chief support of the family."

"This amazing bill," said Mrs. Kerr, "serves to emphasize the necessity for the passage of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment, now before Congress, and which provides that 'Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.'"

"Mr. Hoover's 'The test of freedom is that there should be maintained equality of opportunity to every individual' and Mr. Roosevelt's slogan, 'Equal Rights to all,' are encouraging, if they really mean what they say. There is, in fact, not a single State in the Union today where all the laws apply equally to men and women.

"Woman works, whether married or single, as does a man, for economic independence, for bread and butter, support of dependents, parents or children, pay-

ments on a home, and for a more generous and higher standard of living.

"The rapidly increasing numbers of trained women pouring from our educational institutions, will be a powerful factor, we hope, in bringing about that equality in business, politics and all other relations of life, by which we shall be able to salvage what is left of sanity in this chaotic state of civilization."

Washington Women Demand Equality

THE program of Federal legislation endorsed by the Woman's Legislative Council of the State of Washington includes the following recommendations:

1. "The immediate adoption of the Equal Rights, Lucretia Mott, Amendment, because it embodies in fundamental law, justice in every walk of life, to every citizen, irrespective of the accident of sex.

2. "The elimination of the Married Persons' clause (Section 213), in the Federal Economy Act, because, while ostensibly attempting to spread employment, it succeeds only in penalizing marriage for both men and women, and furthermore, destroys the principle upon which the system of civil service rests.

3. "The institution of full individual citizenship for married women, as expressed by the Institution of International Law. 'Whatever rights a man now holds in nationality, the same should be granted to women.' In the international code, now in building, there should be no discrimination on account of sex, in regard to nationality."

Maryland Advocates Equality Reservation

DORA G. OGLE has been appointed by the Maryland Branch as chairman of a special committee to annex the Equality Reservation to a joint bill introduced into the Maryland General Assembly proposing United States adherence to the World Court.

Josephine Casey Speaks in Buffalo

INSISTENCE on Equal Rights for women regardless of party allegiance or personal gain was the plea of Josephine Casey at a meeting of the Western New York Branch of the National Woman's Party held on February 17 at the home of Esther S. Smith, 305 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

Miss Casey, who has been travelling throughout New York State establishing industrial councils to educate the women to understand the value of their vote, believes that as soon as women understand their powers, they will utilize them.

"Until women are granted industrial equality, they will be used by employers to bring the wage scale below its normal and just level," she said in closing.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner given by Miss Smith in honor of Miss Casey at the Town Club, Buffalo, N. Y. The dinner was attended by the executive

committee of the Western New York Branch of the National Woman's Party.

Mrs. Robert M. Fotheringham is chairman of the organization and Mrs. Karl P. Mueller, vice-chairman. Others present included Dinah Rosenblatt, Grace W. Shopp, Louise Mosher, Edna L. Sickmon, Kitty H. Cameren, Bertha R. Roetter, Republican State committeewoman; Mabel Gibbons and Mabel A. Tutton.

An Open Letter

LENORA SPENCER of Hot Springs, Arkansas, writes such interesting letters to Equal Rights that we have decided to share one, at least, with our readers. On February 25 Mrs. Spencer wrote:

To the Editor of EQUAL RIGHTS:

I sent you a night letter Wednesday night, telling you that Governor J. M. Futrell signed the Inheritance bill which Mrs. Burnita Shelton Matthews drew up for me, and am inclosing clippings from the papers so you will know we have really removed that discrimination against women in Arkansas. Now I hope to work for a Community Property Rights bill at the next session in 1935.

Mr. Futrell held up this Inheritance bill several days because he did not like the two words, "for life" in Section 3480, nor the rest of that section. He said if we give the property to the father and mother in equal shares, in Section 3471, why not give it to them outright, in Section 3480. but I am so deeply grateful to him for signing it, I was glad to get it as it is, and at the next session, we will try to amend it to strike out those two words and the rest of that section.

Quoting a letter from Representative Ethel Cole Cunningham, "My dear Mrs. Spencer: Your letter was handed to me this morning, asking if the Governor had signed our House Bill No. 60. I have been having some trouble after it was placed in the Governor's hand for signature. He held it up because of the words "husband and wife." He did not sign the bill until I went to Mr. George B. Rose and asked him to deliver an opinion as to whether this would make a difference with the bill. Mr. Rose delivered a splendid opinion and stated that it was foolish to let such a splendid piece of legislation not become a law, and relieve a very unfair situation to the mothers and women of this State, on account of such a small thing.

"When you come over, I want you to read Mr. Rose's decision for I have kept a copy and consider it a masterpiece. The Governor will sign the bill today, and I shall feel very much relieved, and I am sure you will, also.

"With kindest regards and best wishes for you, I am, most sincerely,

"(Signed) ETHEL COLE CUNNINGHAM."

I received the telegram from Mrs. Cunningham, Wednesday afternoon, at three

o'clock, telling me that the Governor had signed the bill, and this letter, Friday morning.

I should say I am relieved. I was afraid he might not sign it at all.

And I am so deeply grateful to the National Woman's Party; Mrs. Burnita Shelton Matthews, who drew up the bill; Representative Ethel Cole Cunningham, who sponsored and did most valuable work for it; Representative Elmer Tackett who made such an eloquent plea for it in the House; Senator Walter Wheatley who championed it in the Senate; every member of the Legislature who voted for it; and most important of all, perhaps, to Governor J. M. Futrell for signing it. Every woman in Arkansas owes a debt of everlasting gratitude to you all, as every woman in the State is a potential beneficiary of this Inheritance bill which is now a law. It passed the House 90 to 1, and the Senate 29 to 0.

I can never thank Mrs. Bessie Newsome Florence, an attorney of Hot Springs, Arkansas, enough, for telling me to write to the National Woman's Party for help on these discriminations against women; nor the National Woman's Party for giving me the help of Mrs. Burnita Shelton Matthews in drawing up this fine Inheritance bill for Arkansas. Assuring you of my continued efforts in behalf of Equal Rights for women. I am,

Loyally yours,

LENORA SPENCER.

Students' Council Plans Supper Meeting

THE Goucher College Students' Council, Maryland Branch, National Woman's Party, of which Evelyn Byrd Howell is president, is planning a supper meeting in the Alumnae Lodge of Goucher College, on Friday, March 17, at 6 P. M. Mollye H. Rollman and Florence Elizabeth Kennard are assisting the students in preparations for the supper.

Elizabeth Gerberding Addresses Soroptimists

ELIZABETH GERBERDING, member of the California Branch of the National Woman's Party, was the principal speaker at a luncheon meeting of the Soroptimist Club, held on February 21 at the Hotel Palomar, Santa Cruz, California. She described in some detail the work of the Woman's Party and urged California women to join the State Branch in order to co-operate effectively both in the local work and in federal activities.

Thelma Ziemer presided over the meeting.

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